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**ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SOUTH CAROLINA
VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION
DEPARTMENT**

FISCAL YEAR 1981-82



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**J.S. Dusenbury
Commissioner**

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of the
SOUTH CAROLINA
VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION
DEPARTMENT
FISCAL YEAR 1981-82



J.S. Dusenbury
Commissioner

[Handwritten signature of Joe S. Dusenbury]
Joe S. Dusenbury

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina
The State House
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Sir:

I hereby submit to the General Assembly, through you, the annual report of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for fiscal year 1982, in compliance with the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department completed FY 1982 having served 47,771 handicapped individuals, with the goal of helping in their preparation for employment.

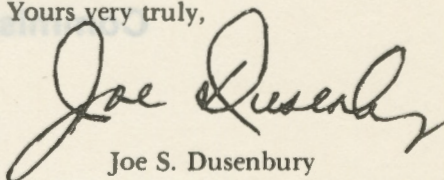
In spite of decreases in the size of the staff of the Department, handicapped citizens continue to receive quality services, though there has been a proportionate decrease in the number of clients the staff is capable of serving. The remaining staff have accepted the challenge of serving clients with the best possible services.

In keeping with federal mandates imposed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Department is serving a larger proportion of severely handicapped clients. Of the 8,069 rehabilitated last year, 51% were severely handicapped. These cases usually take a wider range of services over a longer period of time.

The average cost of services per client has been only a modest increase due primarily to the increase in the cost of purchasing goods and services. In order to maximize the use of the total budget of the Department, fewer medical benefits are being provided by the Department in keeping with requests from the General Assembly to reduce spending.

The Department continues to maintain its top national standing based on the number of rehabilitants in comparison with other states. South Carolina is still an innovator in vocational rehabilitation and one of the most respected agencies in the country.

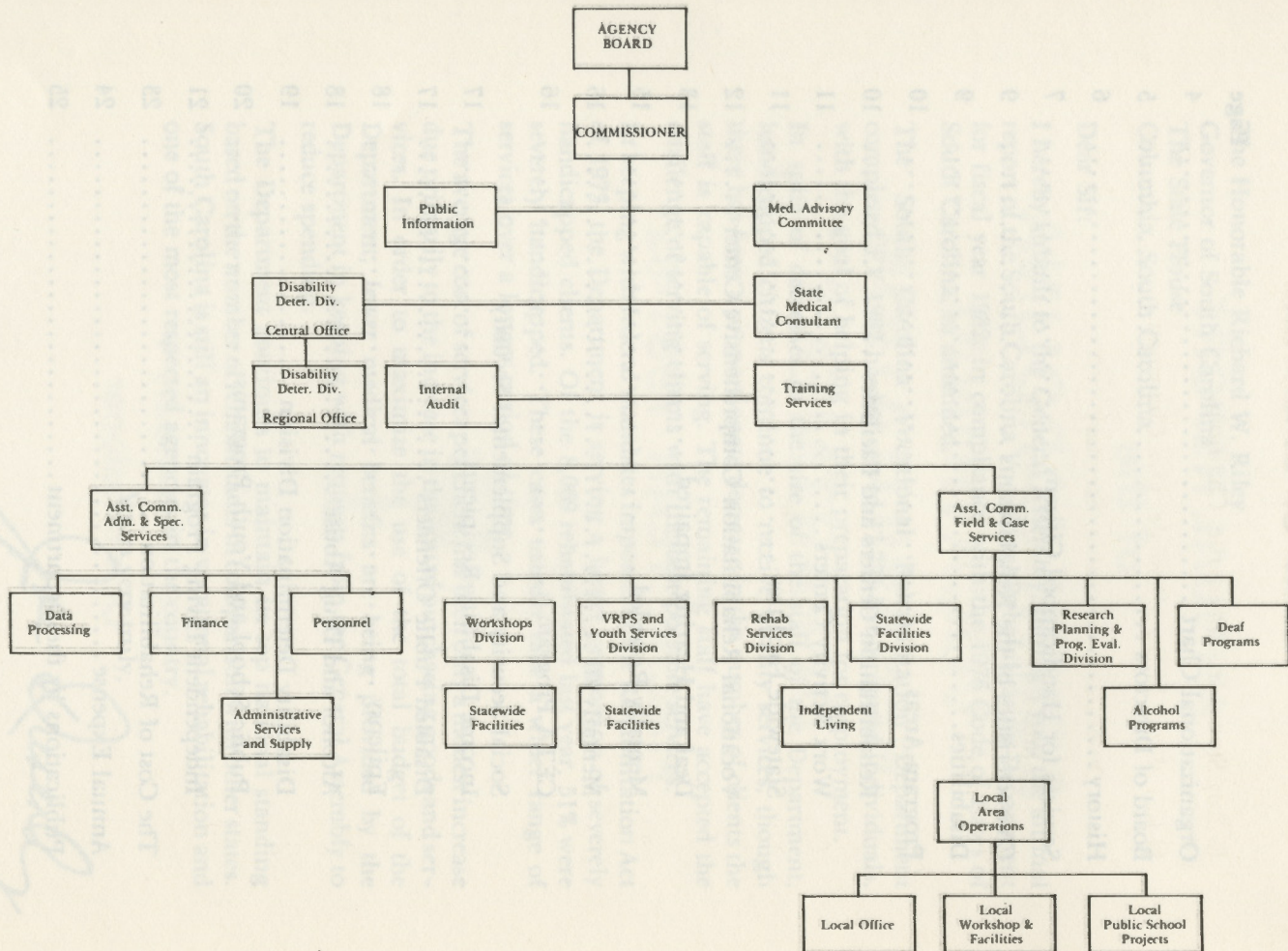
Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Dusenbury", with a stylized, flowing script.

Joe S. Dusenbury

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E. Roy Stone, Jr., Greenville, Chairman

H.L. Laffitte, M.D., Allendale, Vice Chairman

Joe S. Dusenbury, Columbia, Secretary

T. James Bell, Jr., M.D., Hartsville

Harry W. Findley, Anderson

Daniel E. Martin, Charleston

John A. Montgomery, Columbia

J. Hewlette Wasson, Laurens

HISTORY

The Vocational Rehabilitation program began in South Carolina in 1927, as a division of the South Carolina Department of Education, with one full-time and two part-time employees. It was not until 1957 that the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was established as a separate state agency. Since the beginning of the program, 209,426 disabled people have been placed in gainful employment following rehabilitation services.

The Department now has 13 area offices and 11 satellite offices to serve clients in all locations of the state. In addition, rehabilitation centers are located within most area offices to provide evaluation and training to clients. Evaluation centers are also located within other state institutions, and mobile evaluation units provide services to handicapped persons living in rural areas of South Carolina. Services have been improved and expanded by setting up specialized facilities in cooperation with public and private groups and organizations. Coordinated services in special facilities are considered to be one of the main keys to enabling thousands of disabled individuals to become self-sufficient members of society.

SERVICES FOR HANDICAPPED CITIZENS

Offices across the state provide rehabilitation services to all South Carolinians with handicapping conditions. Uniform services are provided in each of the offices operated by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

In order to qualify for services through the Department, a person must have a physical or mental disability which for that individual constitutes or results in a substantial handicap to employment and a reasonable expectation that vocational rehabilitation services may benefit the individual in terms of employability.

A disabled person may need one or more services offered through the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department in order to prepare for his return to gainful employment.

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE is a continuous service provided to all clients through the entire rehabilitation process. The counselor and client develop an individualized program of services according to the needs of the client, his interest and aptitudes, with the ultimate goal of gainful employment upon completion of services.

A thorough **EVALUATION** of the client's medical, social, psychological and vocational needs provides insight into potential for employment, as well as the nature and scope of services needed to lead the individual toward a suitable occupation.

All rehabilitation services contribute toward **JOB PLACEMENT**, and no client is considered rehabilitated until he begins working on a job suited to his vocational and physical ability. Every client receives **FOLLOW-UP** services to ensure that his rehabilitation is successful and that both he and the employer are satisfied.

Some clients may require additional services prior to job placement, such as adjustment services, training, provision of artificial appliances, or other related services.

ADJUSTMENT SERVICES provided within the vocational rehabilitation program assist the client in learning to deal with day-to-day problems, as well as getting along in the community and on the job.

Wheelchairs, limbs, braces, hearing aids, and other kinds of **ARTIFICIAL APPLIANCES** may be provided for clients who would otherwise be unable to perform satisfactorily on the job.

A client may also receive maintenance and/or transportation payments to allow him to get maximum benefits from other aspects of his rehabilitation program.

TRAINING in vocational and technical schools, business schools, as well as in colleges and universities may be sponsored by Vocational Rehabilitation, in keeping with the client's employment goals, if he is unable to obtain assistance through other sources. This equips the client with skills to improve his saleability on the job market.

In addition, occupational licenses, tools, equipment and supplies may be included as a part of Vocational Rehabilitation services to increase the individual's prospects of successful employment or self-employment.

All services are expected to assist the client in his search for suitable employment, as it did last year for 8,069 handicapped South Carolinians.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REHABILITANTS

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was successful in rehabilitating 8,069 clients during 1981.

At the time of referral:

84.5% were unemployed

16.2% were in tax supported institutions

57.6% were dependent on family and friends for livelihood

57.4% had less than 12th grade education

Of the 8,069 clients rehabilitated, 57.0% were male; 56.7% were white, 43.0% black and .3 other.

DISABILITIES

Rehabilitation of the handicapped has paid off as the disabled become productive. Services provided by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department are extended to persons handicapped by many types of disabilities.

The 8,069 rehabilitants served by Vocational Rehabilitation in 1982 had these disabilities:

Type of Disability	Number of Rehabilitants
Mental Illness	3305
Mental Retardation	1163
Orthopedic Deformity	1009
Digestive System Disorders	397
Hearing Impairments	373
Heart and Circulatory Conditions	367
Allergy, Endocrine Disorders	318
Genito-Urinary System Disorders	271
Epilepsy and Nervous Disorders	167
Visual Impairments	166
Respiratory Diseases	124
Absence of Limbs	90
Cancer	62
Speech Impairments	37
Blood Disease	25

PROGRAM AREAS

Rehabilitation Centers and Facilities

The rehabilitation centers and facilities of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department are designed to assist in the coordination, development and provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped citizens of the State of South Carolina.

A Vocational Rehabilitation center has as its main emphasis the provision of comprehensive evaluation and adjustment training services. Vocational evaluation, including I.Q., aptitude, interest and dexterity testing, to indicate the functional limitations of the client, is provided by the staff of the facility. The center also provides comprehensive adjustment training, which may include personal grooming classes, world of work groups, activities of daily living classes, work adjustment through the utilization of contract activities, academic classes and other services as required. These centers serve all disability groups.

The Department operates a network of rehabilitation centers located in strategic areas throughout the state. These 15 community-based centers are placing emphasis on the rehabilitation of the severely disabled with an array of services geared to meet the individual needs of the handicapped clients.

New rehabilitation centers have been completed in some areas and plans are under way for construction of more centers. The new centers which are owned and operated by the Department, are located in Charleston, Greenville, Orangeburg, Walterboro, Sumter, Conway, Aiken, Spartanburg, Columbia, Lancaster and Florence.

Other centers in the state are operating within rented space, which has been adapted for the most effective and efficient delivery of adjustment, evaluation and training services to handicapped individuals.

Centers are operated in the following locations:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| * Aiken | * Florence | * Rock Hill |
| * Anderson | Greenville | Spartanburg |
| Bennettsville | * Conway | * Sumter |
| Charleston | * Greenwood | * Walterboro |
| Columbia | * Orangeburg | Lancaster |

- * Work activity centers for severely mentally retarded in these facilities.

Work Activity Centers

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation have, through a cooperative agreement, set up work activity centers in an attempt to provide improved services to the severely mentally retarded of the state.

The work activity center program began with two centers, one in Anderson and one in Rock Hill, in 1973, with initial funding under the Developmental Disabilities Act. All are now operated jointly by Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Mental Retardation. Centers are now in operation in Greenwood, Aiken, Orangeburg, Walterboro, Conway, Florence, as well as in Sumter. A new activity center will be started in Lancaster.

Services offered in these projects include evaluation, personal and social adjustment, work adjustment, on-the-job training, as well as daily living classes.

The program is designed to take the severely mentally retarded population out of institutions and provide them with the training they need in order to take their places in society. These citizens will, hopefully, be able to return to the community and earn a livelihood as a result of the program. Because of the severity of their disabilities, these handicapped people usually require a longer transition period before their employment.

The work activity centers served 265 mentally retarded clients during fiscal year 1981-82.

Statewide Facilities

In an effort to provide Vocational Rehabilitation services to as many different disability groups as possible, the Department has established projects within a number of facilities around the state operated by other state agencies and working in cooperation with other agencies.

Such facilities are located as follows:

- Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Addiction Center, Columbia
- Cedar Spring Facility for the Deaf, Spartanburg
- Evaluation and Adjustment Center for the Deaf, Opportunity School, West Columbia
- Vocational Rehabilitation Evaluation Center, Opportunity School, West Columbia

Dill Beckman Vocational Rehabilitation Facility, Ladson
 Midlands Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia
 Whitten Center Rehabilitation Facility, Clinton
 Medical University Hospital Facilities, Charleston

Psychiatric Rehabilitation
 Speech and Hearing Facility
 Cardio-Vascular Facility
 Peripheral Vascular Facility
 Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility
 Referral Unit
 Amputee Clinic

Public Offender Facilities

Manning Correctional Institution, Columbia
 Watkins Pre-Release Center, Columbia
 Correctional Institution for Women, Columbia
 Wateree Correctional Institution, Boykin
 Blue Ridge Community Pre-Release Center, Greenville
 MacDougall Youth Correction Center, Ridgeville
 Aiken Youth Correction Center, Aiken

G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, Columbia
 State Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia
 William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, Columbia
 S.C. Department of Youth Services, Columbia

The Department also owns and operates the following statewide facilities:

Holmesview Alcoholic Center, Greenville
 Palmetto Center, Florence
 Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center, West
 Columbia

Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center

Severely handicapped clients in South Carolina have had some difficulty in the past in getting from one location to another in order to receive necessary services.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center in West Columbia has helped in alleviating this problem. The statewide facility is the only residential facility of its kind operated by the Department to provide services to its severely disabled clients.

The Center provides a program of services which is designed to meet the individualized needs of the severely disabled. The services

are coordinated between the Rehabilitation team at the facility and the Vocational Rehabilitation counselor at the local level to ensure that the clients of the Department receive maximum utilization of the service delivery system established at the Center.

The Center can accommodate 35 clients at any one time, including residents and out-patients. Services at the facility include physical therapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy and activities of daily living.

In addition, the Center is equipped and staffed to provide gait and mobility training, speech and hearing services, vocational and psychological evaluation and support services which consist of recreation, dining and residential care. The uniqueness of the Center lies in the provision of these services in one location, thus eliminating the necessity of transporting Vocational Rehabilitation clients throughout the community or state for needed individual services which can now be provided at the Comprehensive Center. However, any services not provided at the Center can be coordinated with other agencies, facilities and organizations in order to provide maximum services to meet the individual needs of severely disabled individuals.

The Comprehensive Center is staffed to provide twenty-four hour services as needed. The barrier free building includes dormitory facilities for eighteen residents, and by residing in such a facility, clients can learn to become more self-sufficient in taking care of their daily needs. This, in turn, makes them more suitable for employment when they return to their communities within the state.

A modular unit is located on the grounds of the Center for the purpose of providing supplemental adjustment programs which serve as a transitional phase from the traditional vocational rehabilitation program into community living. The unit is architecturally barrier-free and serves a full range of severely disabled clients. The primary objective is to create awareness of the world around us and to develop the handicapped individual's ability to live independently.

During fiscal year 1982, 363 clients received services through the Comprehensive Center.

Deaf and Hearing Impaired

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired is composed of professional and nonprofessional staff members located strategically throughout South Carolina to serve only the hearing impaired. Vocational Rehabilitation specialty staff

receive extensive training in development of communication skills with the deaf as well as psychological and audiological aspects of hearing impaired.

The Adult Deaf Evaluation and Training Center, operated in cooperation with the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School in West Columbia, serves severely disabled deaf individuals from across the state. Services being provided at the Adult Deaf Center include guidance and counseling, evaluation, personal, social and work adjustment training, speech therapy, communication training (sign language and finger-spelling), recreation programs and job training.

During fiscal year 1981-82, clients were primarily referred by physicians, schools for the physically handicapped, artificial appliance companies, educational institutions, interested individuals, deaf consumers and other social service related industries.

Cases accepted for services under the program include the following:

	Served	Rehabilitate
Deafness, Pre-Lingual	503	80
Deafness, Pre-Vocational	61	13
Deafness, Post-Vocational	17	4
Hard of Hearing, Pre-Lingual	222	47
Hard of Hearing, Pre-Vocational	288	74
Hard of Hearing, Post-Vocational	422	155
	<hr/> 1,513	<hr/> 373

The Vocational Rehabilitation facility located on the campus and in cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf continues to work with the deaf students while they are attending Cedar Spring. Upon graduation the students are transferred to their respective home areas and services are continued until completion by the specialty counselors.

A continued effort is being made to provide adequate services through the local speech and hearing centers throughout the state and with the medical community. Also, more involvement with the deaf community and their organizations has continued to provide a channel of communication between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the hearing impaired population.

During the past year, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilita-

tion Department continued its cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf, with the multi-handicapped unit housed on the grounds at Cedar Spring. The purpose of this innovative program is to evaluate vocational needs of the multi-handicapped students and to provide services to maximize their future employment goals based on individual capabilities. These students have two or more handicaps and are being served by a specialty trained staff in cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind.

Mentally Retarded

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides services to severely mentally retarded individuals in three state institutions. These services are geared to benefit mentally retarded people who need residential services rather than local community services. These are carried out in coordination with the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation.

Services provided to these clients include vocational evaluation, adjustment training, community resident placement, job placement, training and follow-up services to ensure that the client is progressing well in his new lifestyle.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Mental Retardation have developed community residences within the state for those clients being transferred from institutions into competitive employment. This program has allowed for an extension of vocational rehabilitation services within the Vocational Rehabilitation units at the institution.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Unit at Whitten Center is now serving clients from the institution population. Midlands Center is a statewide facility, whereby clients are referred by Vocational Rehabilitation counselors in other areas for an individualized comprehensive program of services to meet the individual needs of the clients. At Coastal Center, the Vocational Rehabilitation unit is providing services to the institutional population as well as reaching the communities through several public schools. This attempt has allowed for a delivery of services that would otherwise have been unavailable for the retarded citizens in that area of the state.

During fiscal year 1981-82, there were 8,649 clients with the disability of mental retardation, of whom 1,163 were closed as successfully rehabilitated.

Mentally Ill

The Department also served a large number of mentally ill individuals referred from institutional programs and a wide variety of community agencies.

Cooperative programs have been developed with the Department of Mental Health to serve individuals in the State Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, and the G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital.

During fiscal year 1981-82, there were 13,548 clients served and 2,288 rehabilitated who had been diagnosed as mentally ill, excluding those with alcoholism, drug addiction and drug abuse.

CETA Program

During Fiscal Year 1981-82 the Vocational Rehabilitation Department was one of the three major sub-contractors providing services to CETA participants who were involved in the various programs sponsored by CETA. The other two state subcontractors which worked cooperatively with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department were Employment Service and Technical Education.

This program is funded through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) under the Department of Labor. It is designed to provide employment and training along with other individualized services to assist the economically disadvantaged and unemployed population of the state. The goal of the program is to allow individuals to receive services which will better prepare them to enter the labor market.

A number of these individuals under the CETA program have physical and mental disabilities, for which vocational rehabilitation services are appropriate.

Full-time Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and evaluators serve CETA enrollees in the provision of basic medical evaluation, minor medical services and assessment services statewide.

Sixteen assessment centers are available for ascertaining the CETA enrollee's vocational potential.

Approximately \$1,155,066 was made available to the Vocational Rehabilitation Department for services and equipment through the CETA program, enabling the Department to provide 2,266 basic

medical evaluations and minor medical services and 3,195 assessments to CETA participants.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income Disability Recipients

Social Security Disability beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income Disability recipients have been served by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department since the beginning of the disability programs. Many of these severely disabled individuals have, as the result of rehabilitation services, been able to return to the labor market, no longer being in need of Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income payments.

Special funding has been available to state vocational rehabilitation programs for this purpose, but has not been available since September 30, 1981.

Continued emphasis will be placed on serving these severely disabled recipients of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability payments in an effort to assist as many of them as possible in returning to the labor market. All counselors now have the responsibility of serving the beneficiary/client in his or her territory over the state.

Disabled Public Offenders

Last year the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served approximately 6,108 public offenders and rehabilitated 1,223. The Public Offender Project provides rehabilitation services to the public offender within the institution and to the ex-offender in the community who is deemed eligible because of a physical or mental disability. Services provided on a need basis consist of assessment, counseling and guidance, placement and follow-up.

The Department is presently working with a majority of the public offenders who are eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Through close coordination between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Corrections, the project is endeavoring to provide a better service delivery system to those public offenders eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections now operates seven work release centers and two pre-release centers. The Vocational Rehabilitation Department is included in most of these centers to assist the client in his exit to the community, as well as

follow-up services once the client has returned to the community. The Vocational Rehabilitation counselor plays an integral part in assisting the public offender in his reintegration into the community.

With the vocational rehabilitation services provided while the public offender is incarcerated and the services provided after his release, a disabled public offender receives the reinforcement necessary to ensure his successful rehabilitation.

The follow-up program for these clients who are deemed eligible for vocational rehabilitation services is now carried by nine counselors located in strategic areas of the state who serve primarily those clients who have been transferred from various institutions within the correctional setting.

Epilepsy

A concentrated effort is being made through the Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility at the Medical University Hospital in Charleston to provide the necessary services for epileptic clients. The facility was set up as a result of a grant through the Developmental Disabilities Act, specifically for these clients who need a well-coordinated delivery of services, usually for a longer period of time than many other rehabilitation clients. A major portion of their rehabilitation deals with educating the client and his family on the nature of epilepsy.

Last year 704 clients with a disability of epilepsy received services through the Department. This number includes clients from other areas of the state who are served by rehabilitation counselors in their home communities as well as 175 clients served by a full-time rehabilitation counselor at the Medical University facility.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

During the 1981-82 fiscal year, Vocational Rehabilitation served 3,715 clients handicapped by alcohol abuse and 873 handicapped by drug abuse. 829 alcoholics and 188 drug abusers were successfully rehabilitated.

Two treatment centers administered by Vocational Rehabilitation provide in-patient therapy to the alcoholic. Palmetto Center in Florence served 507 residents this past year, while Holmesview Center, located in Greenville, served 370 clients. Both centers support the referring Vocational Rehabilitation field counselors who remain responsible for follow-up services once the client returns to his home

community. Additionally the two centers operate out-patient and family therapy treatment groups.

Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and mental health counselors use the Earle E. Morris Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center for clients needing in-patient therapy for the misuse of drugs and alcohol. A Vocational Rehabilitation unit at the Center provides clients a comprehensive vocational assessment plus personal and social adjustment services.

Although no longer funded through NIAAA training grant, Palmetto Center and Holmesview continue to offer the Community Training Seminar for local community professional and lay persons upon request.

The programs for treatment of alcohol and drug abuse use community resources to augment their effectiveness, such as Alcoholics Anonymous groups and other such organizations.

Disability Determination Division

The Disability Determination Division of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department is responsible for processing claims for disability benefits under the provisions of the Social Security Act of 1954 and the Supplemental Security Income Program which went into effect January 1, 1974. The Division is decentralized with operations conducted in Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston. Benefits from these programs are paid to individuals unable to work because of a mental or physical impairment. Payments will continue as long as the person's impairment prevents any substantial gainful work activity.

The disability decisions are made jointly by a "team" consisting of a disability examiner and a physician. These professional personnel are trained in the evaluation of medical and vocational factors. It is their responsibility to ensure that sound medical evidence is obtained and that the decision to allow or deny benefits meets all requirements of the Social Security Law.

In addition to determining disability, each claim is reviewed to determine if the individual has rehabilitation potential. A large number of former recipients have received services through the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and are now employed. Because of a large number of re-evaluations, 520,000 in FY 1982 and 750,000 projected for FY 1983, it is expected that Vocational Rehabilitation will continue to receive a larger number of referrals of

disabled individuals who are not prepared to go directly into the work force. The employment of these people would mean a significant savings in government spending, but more importantly, these individuals would gain personal satisfaction as a result of their re-entry into the mainstream of society.

During the past fiscal year, the Disability Determination Division processed 54,336 claims for disability benefits. Payments were made to 48,560 Disability Insurance beneficiaries in calendar year 1981-82 with a total of \$219 million paid. There were more than 45,800 recipients of Supplemental Security Disability Income in South Carolina during this period. Benefits for this program totaled more than \$96 million.

Public School and Youth Program

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has a cooperative arrangement with the State Department of Education and local school districts in many areas of the state to provide rehabilitation services to eligible physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped students in the secondary schools.

The services rendered in this program are the same type provided to other vocational rehabilitation clients. They include counseling and guidance, personal and social adjustment training, medical and vocational evaluation and placement assistance to determine the type of work for which the student will be best suited upon completion of his formal education.

A program of services is also available for youth out of school. These individuals may be returned to school, placed in on-the-job training, or placed in some specialized vocational training program in keeping with their abilities and interests.

The Department also cooperates with the Department of Youth Services in providing services to youth under their supervision. This effort has, in many areas, resulted in the use of Vocational Rehabilitation services as an alternative to incarceration.

The Department has established 16 satellite workshops which operate within existing VR-PS programs. This work component has provided valuable work experience as well as monetary compensation in a competitive production environment as a part of the student's overall curriculum. Students also receive Carnegie units for their participation in the work adjustment program.

There were 12,232 physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped students served through the public school and youth programs across the state last year, of whom 1,675 were successfully rehabilitated.

There are VR-PS programs located in the following areas: Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Batesburg, Beaufort, Brookland-Cayce, Camden, Campobello, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Columbia, Conway, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Graniteville, Greenville, Greenwood, Lancaster, Laurens, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Spring Valley, Summerville, Sumter, Union, York, and Walterboro.

Independent Living Program

The Independent Living Program assists severely handicapped individuals with limited potential to identify their needs in a variety of life situations and to explore alternatives for meeting these needs. The goal is to help individuals who happen to be severely handicapped to improve their quality of life and to function more independently in their homes, in society, in communities and at work or school.

The following case histories give a vivid description of the results of the program:

Case No. 1: A 40-year old single white male is confined to a wheelchair following a stroke at age 26, resulting in hemiparesis. He was almost totally dependent on his elderly mother for food, assistance in toileting, personal grooming and dressing. He remained in the home, traveled only to his doctor as needed and had no hobbies except television. He talked very little, due to a speech defect.

Vocational Rehabilitation, through its Independent Living Program, provided physical therapy, occupational therapy, vocational evaluation, personal and social adjustment training, recreational therapy, speech evaluation and therapy, diet and nutrition assessment and counseling, assistance in acquiring needed equipment and devices as well as counseling and guidance.

As a result of these services, the client is now able to walk with the aid of a long leg brace and cane. He can prepare simple foods and coffee. He can toilet, bathe, dress and groom himself. He goes shopping with his family, participates in family activities, and he talks on the telephone. He appears bright-eyed and feels good about himself, and both he and his family are proud of his accomplishments.

Case No. 2: This 57-year-old woman was living with her 18 year old daughter, following a below knee amputation of the right leg due to diabetes mellitus. At the time of her referral for Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living Program services, she was hospitalized and scheduled for admission into a nursing home, since she was unable to handle her personal care, grooming and home-making needs.

She received occupational therapy, physical therapy, as well as personal and social adjustment while in the Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center; financial management counseling; a ramp to facilitate mobility, assistance with prosthesis and adaptive and assistive devices. Peer and professional counseling has helped her to accept her disability and its limitations upon her lifestyle.

She was able, with Vocational Rehabilitation assistance, to locate appropriate housing which enables her to live independently and care for all her daily needs. She also participates regularly in social and recreational activities of her community.

South Carolina received one of 19 federal grants to establish and maintain a program of services to those individuals so severely handicapped that their placement into gainful employment was questionable. The program was staffed and is now housed at the Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center in West Columbia.

THE COST OF REHABILITATION

Supporting unemployed disabled persons is a continuous cost year after year. The cost for rehabilitation per client was only \$3,194 last year — only a fraction of the annual cost per case at many state institutions such as prisons, hospitals and treatment centers.

A number of advisory committees and boards have been an invaluable resource to the Department in their planning and delivery of services to handicapped citizens. The Department has also used volunteers in other areas such as recreation in residential and other facilities. A total of 1,166 people have contributed 4,875 hours of service toward the rehabilitation of handicapped citizens.

ANNUAL EXPENSE

The total operating expense of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department during fiscal year 1981-82 was \$34,717,296. Of this amount \$32,725,807, or 94.3% was spent for "services to individuals." This includes counseling and placement of clients, including professional and clerical salaries, travel, communications, supplies, rent, office maintenance and equipment. These monies are spent also on diagnostic procedures, surgery, treatment, prosthetic appliances, hospitalization and convalescent care, training, equipment and licenses for clients, as well as for determinations of disability for SSA recipients.

The remaining \$1,991,489, or 5.7% was spent on administration of the Department. This includes administrative and clerical salaries, travel, communication, supplies, public information, rent, office maintenance and equipment.

A comparison of expenditures for fiscal year 1980-81 and 1981-82 shows:

	FY 1980-81	FY 1981-82
Administration	\$1,874,822	\$1,991,489
Basic VR Services Program	21,290,182	21,369,751
CETA	1,336,901	927,892
Work Activity Centers	660,667	632,232
Special Projects	1,594,833	381,755
Disability Determination	5,787,653	6,985,959
Workshop Production	2,302,959	2,428,218
<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Operating Expense	\$34,848,017	\$34,717,296

In addition to the \$34,717,296 for operating expenses, \$1,309,640 was spent on capital improvements making total expenditures \$36,026,936 for FY 1981-82.

PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report - South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Breakthrough - a pictorial, graphic and factual review of each fiscal year

New Horizons - a quarterly newsletter

From Dependence to Independence

Your Handbook of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Palmetto Center

Holmesview Alcoholic Center

Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center

Programs for Deaf and Hearing Impaired

50 Years of Service to the Handicapped

Client Handbook (Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center)

Independent Living Program

Journalism Contest

Special Licensing and Parking for the Handicapped

Handicapped Parking Tickets

Making South Carolina Barrier-Free

Vocational Rehabilitation Public School Adjustment Orientation Handbook

